


THE SQUATTERS ARE  
REVOLTING



LONDON HAS 72457  
EMPTY HOMES

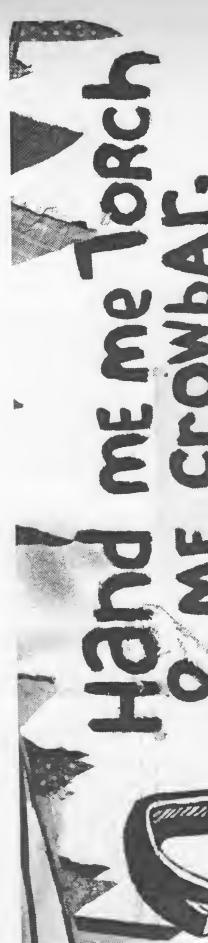
GALLERIES ♦ INTERNATIONAL ART CONSULTANTS ♦

STOP THE CRIMINALISATION  
OF SQUATTERING

MADE  
POSSIBLE  
BY  SQU  
ATTI  
NG



Exhibition archive zine



**HAND ME ME TORCH  
& ME CROWBAR,  
PASS ME A MAP  
OF THE TOWN.**

**WHY SHOULD WE  
BE HOMELESS  
When Theres Plenty  
to GO AROUND?**

## MADE POSSIBLE BY SQUATTING 2013

Made Possible by Hi-Vis Friends with Pontakes Marker Pens Kittens SQUATTING is a project set up to celebrate the past, present and future of squatting in London and elsewhere, with an emphasis on the ways that it has shaped the city, and the personal stories and experiences that arise when people decide to seek shelter, make a home, or carry out a project in an otherwise empty or abandoned building.

It has been just over a year since the coalition government in the UKXX made squatting in 'residential' buildings a criminal offence. The negative psychik rumblings that our state lie detector is picking up suggest that the same wack gang of rich white men might want to do the same with 'commercial' buildings.

It *may* be that squatting as we have known it could change, and soon. However, we believe that new rules are simply new rules to be broken, and are there to provoke new forms of creative resistance and rebellion. So keep your posse up, keep your guard up, stay on your toes and hit the ground running.

For now we wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fact that SQUATTING IS NOT DEAD and is still very much **ALIVE** and still **LEGAL**...

From adventure playgrounds to women's refuges, skateparks to community gardens, whole housing estates to volunteer run bike repair spaces, housing co-ops to cafés and galleries, no third runways to no road expansion projects- the ways that squatting has positively enriched London are varied and many. Made Possible seeks to tell some of these hidden stories and provide an alternative history from below, whilst provoking debate and discussion on the future of squatting and how we meet the potential challenges ahead together- as a community of people who recognise the potential in empty spaces, who know how to use a crowbar, and are ready to get busy...





At the Made Possible exhibition, there was a timeline hanging in the space, listing some interesting dates from the past. Like any exercise in describing our history/history, it was selective, with a focus on squatting in London. A small selection of the dates from the 70s follows....



Historically, squatting an empty building has been a way to create a temporary home. The occupation of an empty building may last days, weeks or years, but once evicted, buildings are eventually demolished or redeveloped along with the lives that were lived inside them.

London is a city of secrets, of layered, hidden histories. One of the histories of London that remains more obscured and certainly less celebrated than others is that of Squats and Squatters, despite it playing an important part in shaping the city and many of the lives of the people that live here.

Sometimes however, a squatted building or project remains and is allowed to grow, to persist. It may move or be moved on but it remains the legacy of the buildings which made it possible. Crossroads Women's Centre, 56a and Islington Community Housing Co-op are some well-known examples in London alone.

This booklet brings together some of the pieces from the exhibition, as always just a start and a minute picture of the squatting going on in and around London over the past decades. A glimpse hoping to inspire and encourage more archiving and action, check the website and get in touch with your stories. [madepossiblebysquatting.co.uk](http://madepossiblebysquatting.co.uk)



In 1971, two young women set up home in a disused launderette at 121 Raiton Road, making it allegedly the first privately-owned building to be squatted in Lambeth.

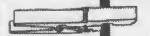


Later it became a radical Black bookshop, then an anarchist centre, finally being evicted in Aug 1999





In March 1972, people began trying to squat empty houses in Elgin Avenue, and at first were violently evicted. The GLC then gave Student Community Housing a short-life licence to occupy some of the houses.



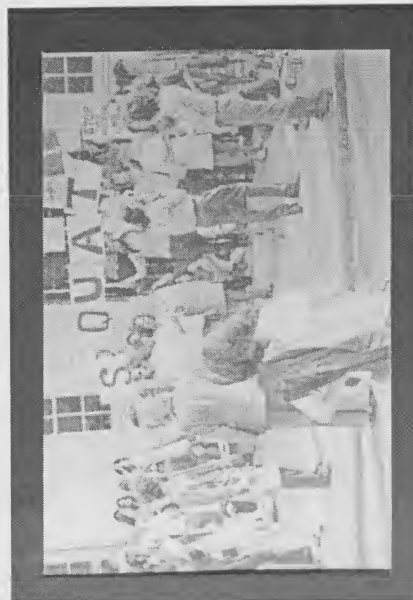
The rest ended up being squatted anyway. By 1972, the Maida Vale Squatters and Tenants Association had been formed.



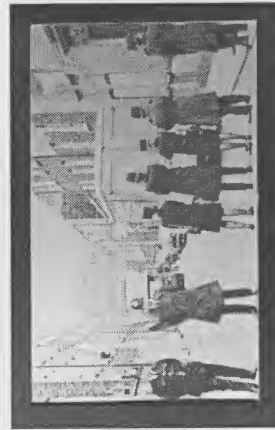
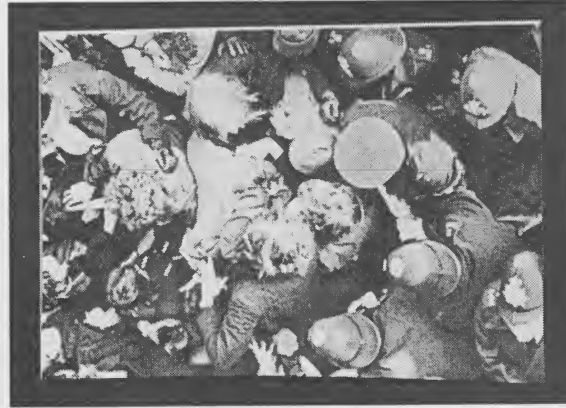
## Parfett & Myrdle Street



Fieldgate Mansions was originally squatted by half a dozen people from the London College of Furniture. Bengali families were having a hard time and squatters were opening up flats that were kept vacant in Myrdle St and Parfett St. Scheduled for demolition in 1972, it was squatted to prevent destruction until evicted and taken over by a community housing trust and modernised in the eighties.



1972: Lesly Street in Islington was barricaded for one day, successfully preventing any immediate evictions, and getting some families rehoused much quicker than they would otherwise have been.



Camden Council issued instructions to library staff in 1973 not to let squatters use the facilities!

# ATTENTION! ANTI-TRENTERS!

AWAKE! AROUSE!



A Meeting of the friends of Equal Rights will

be held on July 4th Hoag's Geese

in the Town of Nassau at 12 O'clock.

Let the opponents of Patronage rally in their strength. A great crisis is approaching. Now is the time to strike. The unions of Patronage are at work. No time is to be lost. Awake! Arouse! and

Strike till the last armed foe expires,

Strike for your altars and your fires—

Strike for the green graves of your sires,

God and your happy homes!

The Meeting will be addressed by **PETER FINKLE** and other Speakers.

1973 saw the formation of All London Squatters, a grouping which supported direct action, occupation and resistance to council plans, and most importantly was open to all squatters, not just those with licences.

THE AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE:

to provide a forum for the exchange of views and information on the current situation of the squatters movement in the UK and abroad

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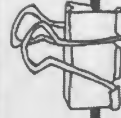
## DIRECT ACTION AND CRIMINAL TRESPASS CONFERENCE

READING UNIVERSITY  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
27 and 28 NOVEMBER 1976

CAMPAIGN AGAINST A  
CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAW  
6 BOWDEN STREET  
LONDON SE11 0JF 089 3877

WORKSHOPS:

ORGANISED BY CACTI  
SPONSORS INCLUDE:  
ACT: NCCLNUS

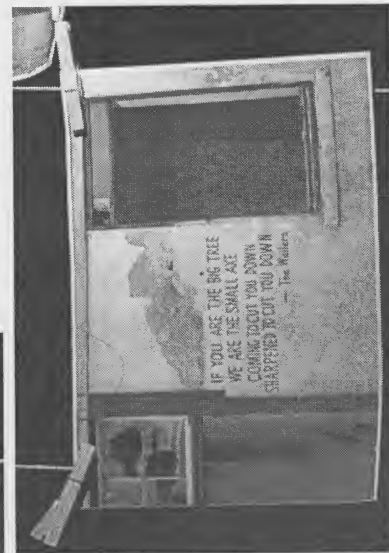
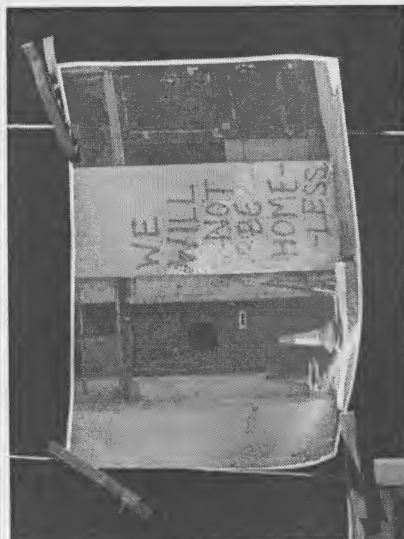


Very different from the Family Squatters Advisory Service, which was trying to work within the system, and would hand back houses without always negotiating rehousing offers for those facing eviction.

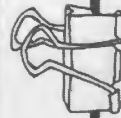
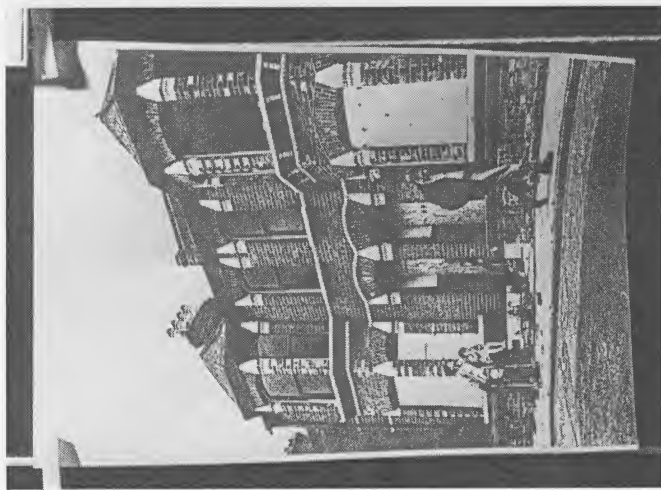


## Islington housing co-op

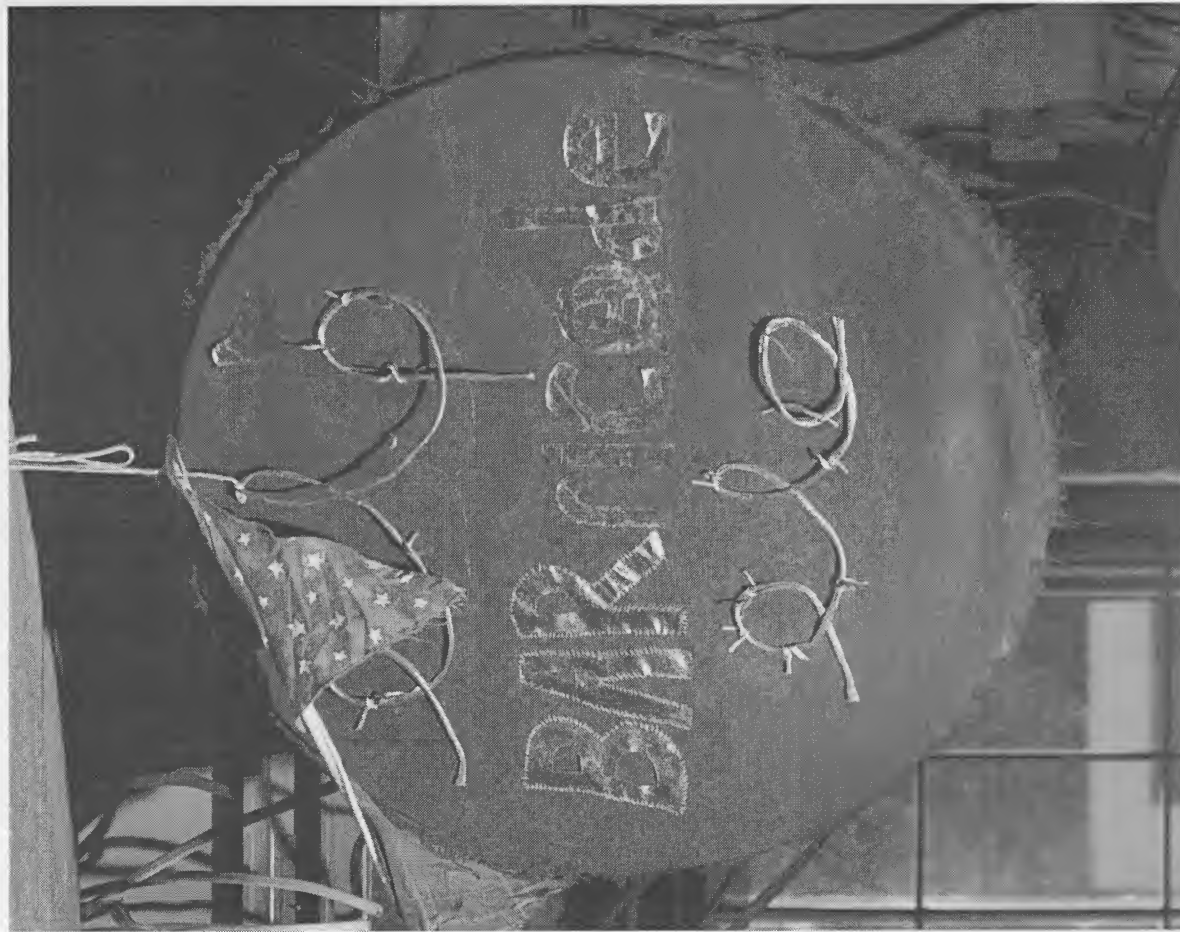
Islington Community Housing Co-op, in North London grew out of the 70s squatting movement. Many properties were squatted and then licences were gained from the local authority. From there we set up a fully mutual co-operative and started to manage houses that the local authority could not manage themselves or afford to repair. After that we obtained funding to purchase derelict houses and grant funding from the housing corporation to repair and improve them. In the early to mid 80s we started to build new housing stock.  
<http://ichc.org.uk>



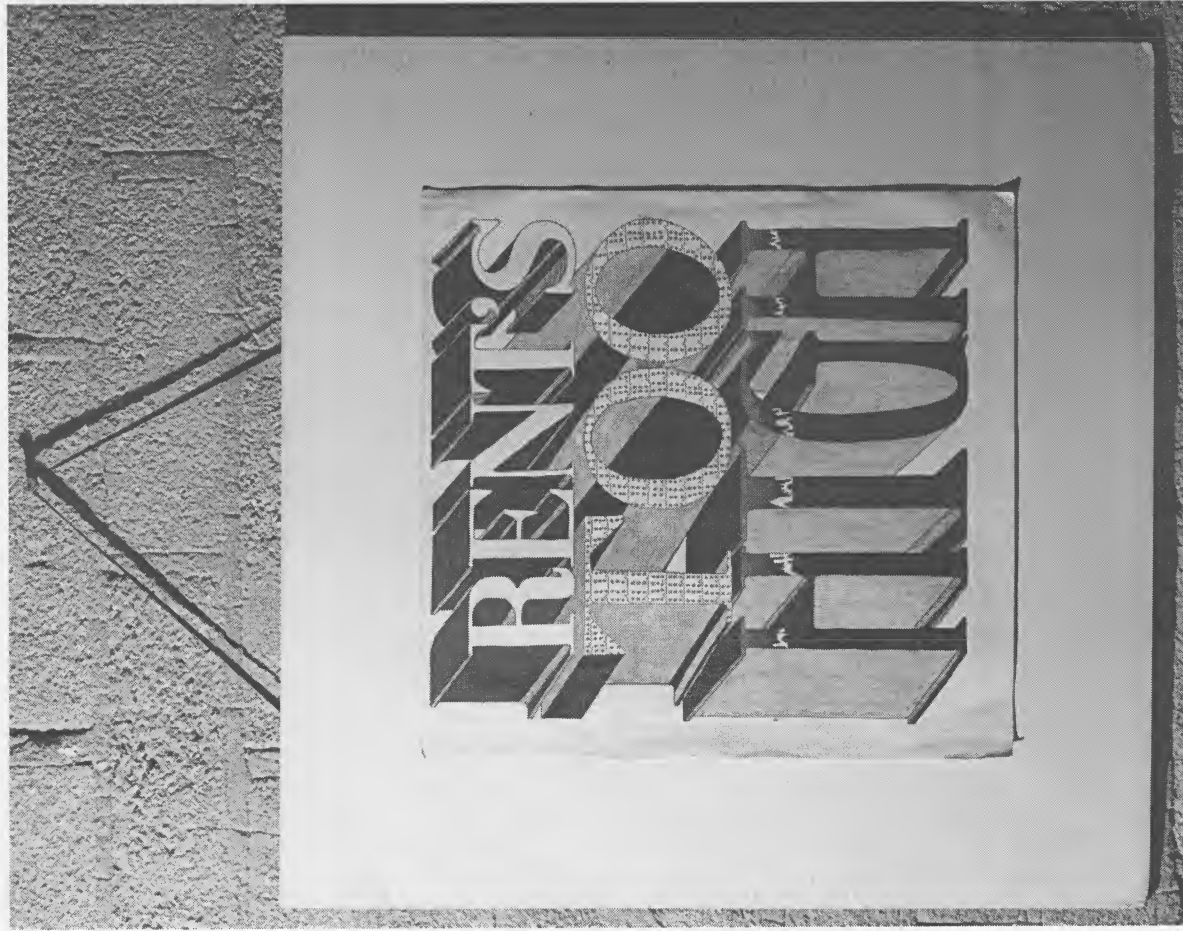
1973 also saw the publication of the first Squatters Handbook, by a local group in Islington.



The Advisory Service for Squatters has produced and distributed it since 1979, and is currently working on a fourteenth edition.



In January 1974, after months of planning, housing activists occupied Centre Point, a massive office block which had sat empty since its construction in 1963.



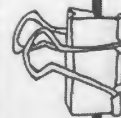
The occupation was ended after just two days, despite supporters outside urging them to stay for longer. Immediately afterwards, some people went and opened up empty luxury flats in Dover Street to actually provide housing, which lasted six weeks.





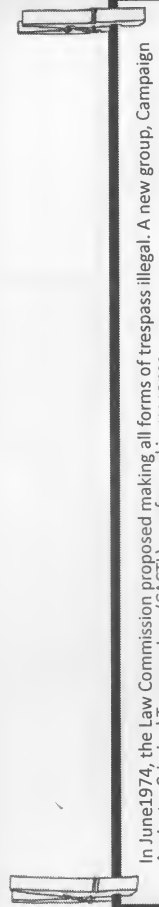
These 2 photographs were taken in Kensington on 17th November 1984. The building was squatted by SCUMS & others as part of a national week of action vs the new (very new) Criminal Justice & Public Order Act.

The London Electricity Board often refused to supply electricity to squats, and a growing number of squatters were charged with the crime of "abstracting" electricity (200 in one week alone!).

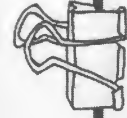


Squatters organised direct action, and in January 1974, outwitted the police in order to occupy the LEB's Notting Hill showroom.





In June 1974, the Law Commission proposed making all forms of trespass illegal. A new group, Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law (CACTL) was formed in response.



Three Lancashire squatters were charged under the 1824 Vagrancy Act in July 1975.

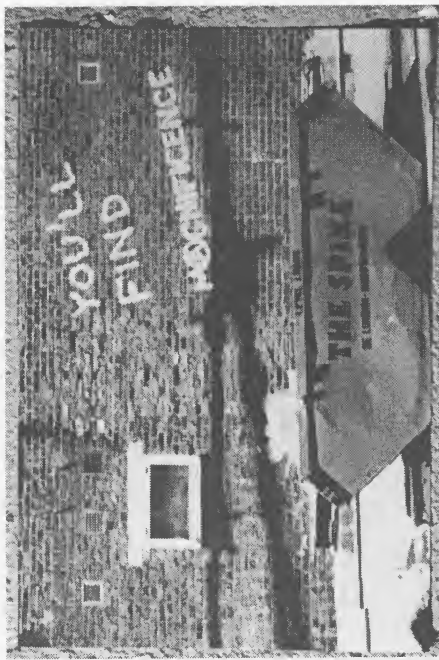


## The Spike

The squatted Spike Surplus Scheme was a community-led initiative in Peckham that has been operating on a voluntary basis for a decade. It was reclaimed from an abandoned fly-tipped site and the land opened up for community activities. The Scheme incorporated a rehearsal/recording studio, a martial arts/meditation/health space, community garden and much more and was evicted in 2008. Check the 'Spike history' video on [vimeo.com](http://vimeo.com)



In late 1974, members of Tower Hamlets Squatters Union and the Race Today collective promoted squatting to Asian families who were suffering from racist harassment and crappy housing conditions in the East End.



They occupied entire streets and blocks, successfully avoided evictions for over five years, and for over a thousand people rehoused.

# Advisory Service for Squatters

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**A.S.S. is a free information service run by squatters for squatters and homeless people. Contact us if you need a home or legal advice or help with other difficulties. Help us by giving us addresses of empty houses and news about your squatting group and activities in your area.**

**ALWAYS PHONE BEFORE COMING IN**  
**A.S.S. - 2 St. Pauls Road, London N.1 - 01-359 8814**  
**SQUATTING IS STILL LEGAL**

### IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

## OFFICE HANDBOOK

### SQUATTER'S HANDBOOK

JULY 1974

**Handing in the Handbook**  
**Handing in the Handbook**  
**Handing in the Handbook**

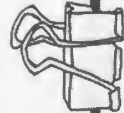
**Handing in the Handbook**  
**Handing in the Handbook**  
**Handing in the Handbook**

## SQUATTERS' HANDBOOK

DEC '75 10P

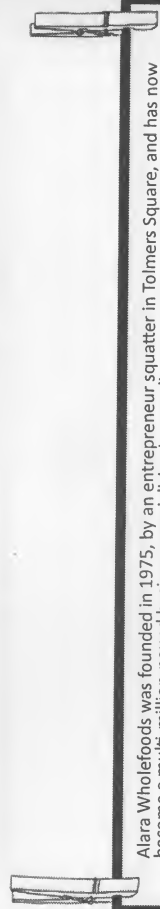
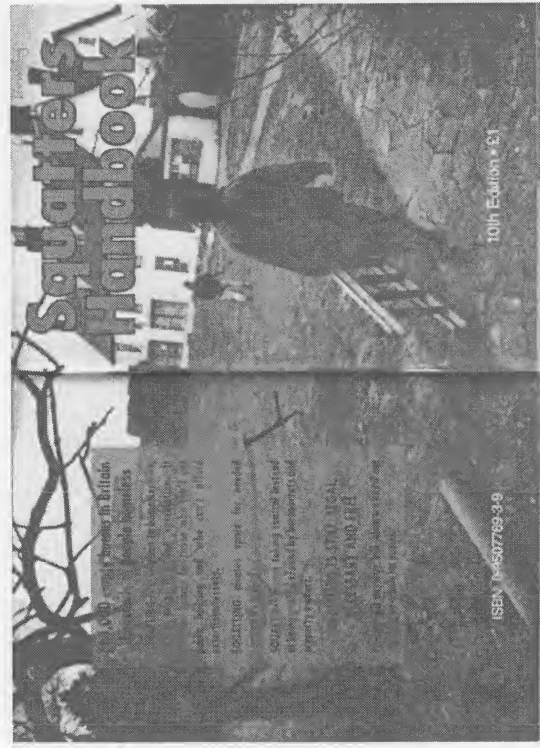
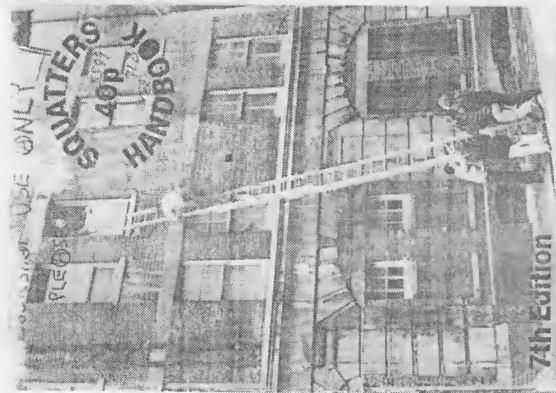
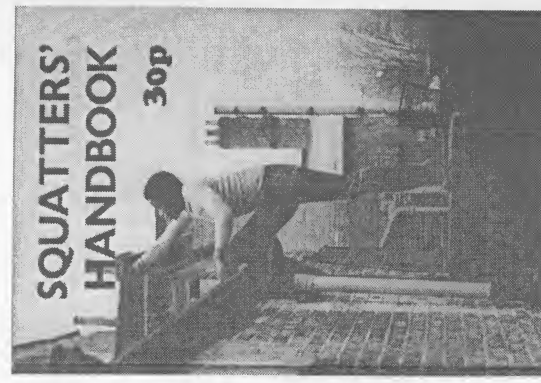
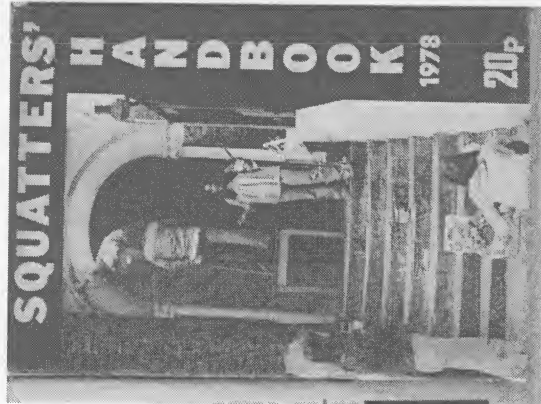
**Handing in the Handbook**  
**Handing in the Handbook**  
**Handing in the Handbook**

Wages for Housework activists set up a women's centre in a squat on Drummond Road in Euston in 1975.

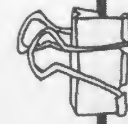


Evicted by the council in 1978, the centre moved several times, and is now the Crossroads Women's Centre in Kentish Town.

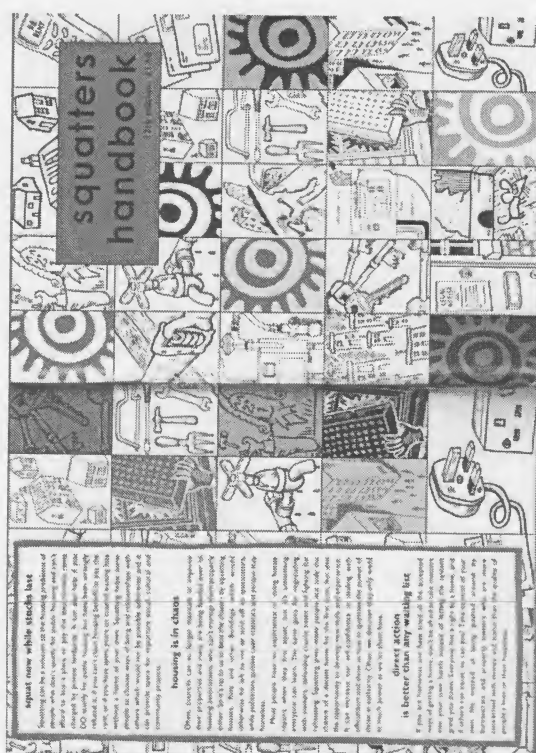
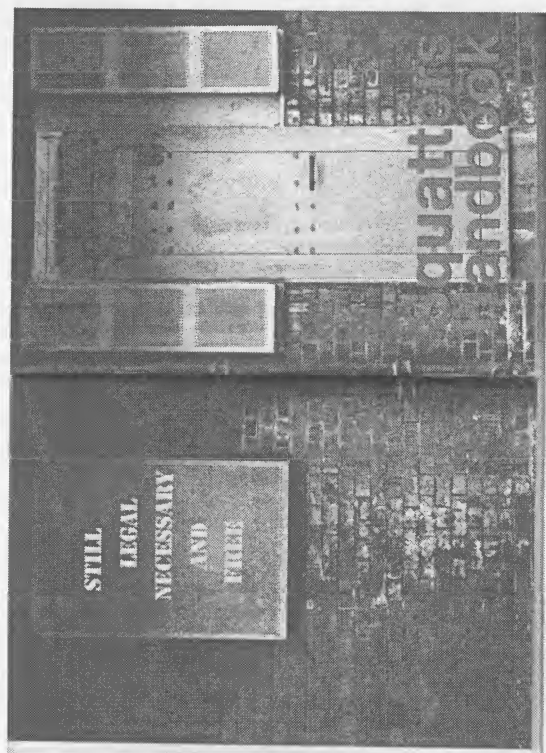




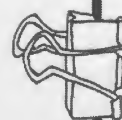
Alara Wholefoods was founded in 1975, by an entrepreneur squatter in Tolmers Square, and has now become a multi-million-pound business specialising in muesli.



Community Wholefoods also began in a squat – in Prince of Wales Crescent – moving to Tolmers Square later. It is now one of the UK's largest wholefoods distributors.

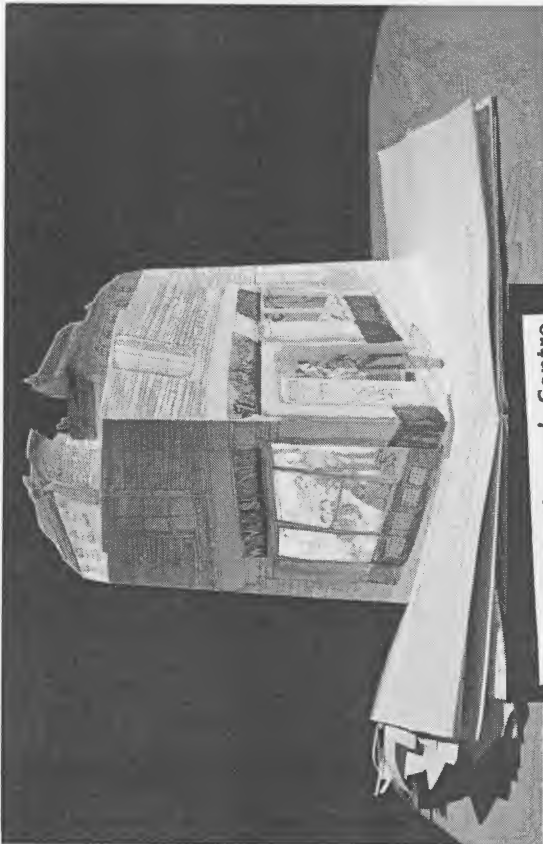


Meanwhile Gardens was established on derelict canal-side land, gaining some kind of temporary licence from the council in 1976.



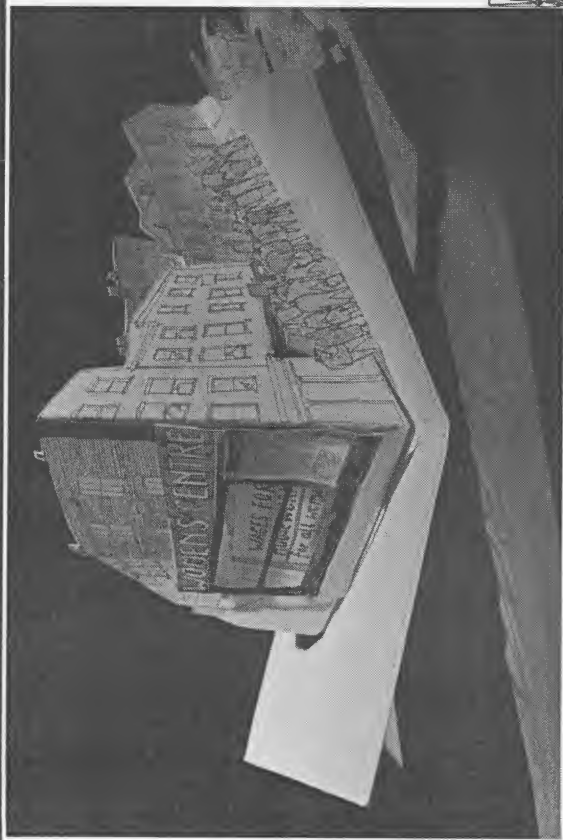
As well as hosting free concerts, it also boasted Europe's first ever concrete skatepark, and still exists today.



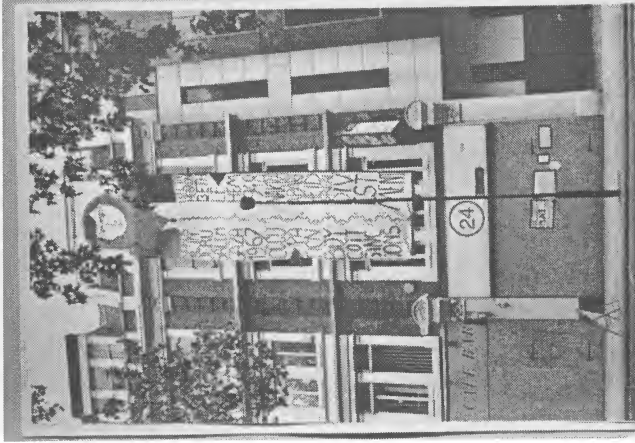


### Crossroads Women's Centre

The Crossroads Women's Centre began as a squat in Drummond Street near Euston station in 1975, opened by the Wages for Housework Campaign. As far as we know, it's the oldest women's centre remaining in London and possibly in the UK. <http://www.crossroadswomen.net>



A number of squats around London – including Bengali squats in the East End and others in North-West London – were firebombed during the summer of 1976.



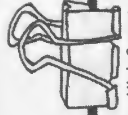
IN CASE OF COPS / OWNERS  
BAILIFFS / OTHER WRONGUNS  
x DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR!!!  
x Tell them we are squatting this building, legally, and to force entry is a criminal offense, and tell them to read the notice on the front door  
x If they try to force entry, tell them you're filming and report the above point  
x call for others to come to the door if they try to force entry  
x otherwise, tell them they will have to apply to the court to claim right to possession of the building  
x IF IT'S BAILIFFS, THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY RIGHT TO ENTER, unless a court of possession order  
x THEY DON'T HAVE ONE, AND IF THEY SAY THEY DO, THEY ARE LYING!!  
x DO NOT OPEN THE F#\$%ING DOOR!!  
x IF YOUVE NOT SQUATTED BEFORE, OR FEEL UNSURE, SHOUT FOR OTHERS TO COME



### PALESTINE PLACE LDN

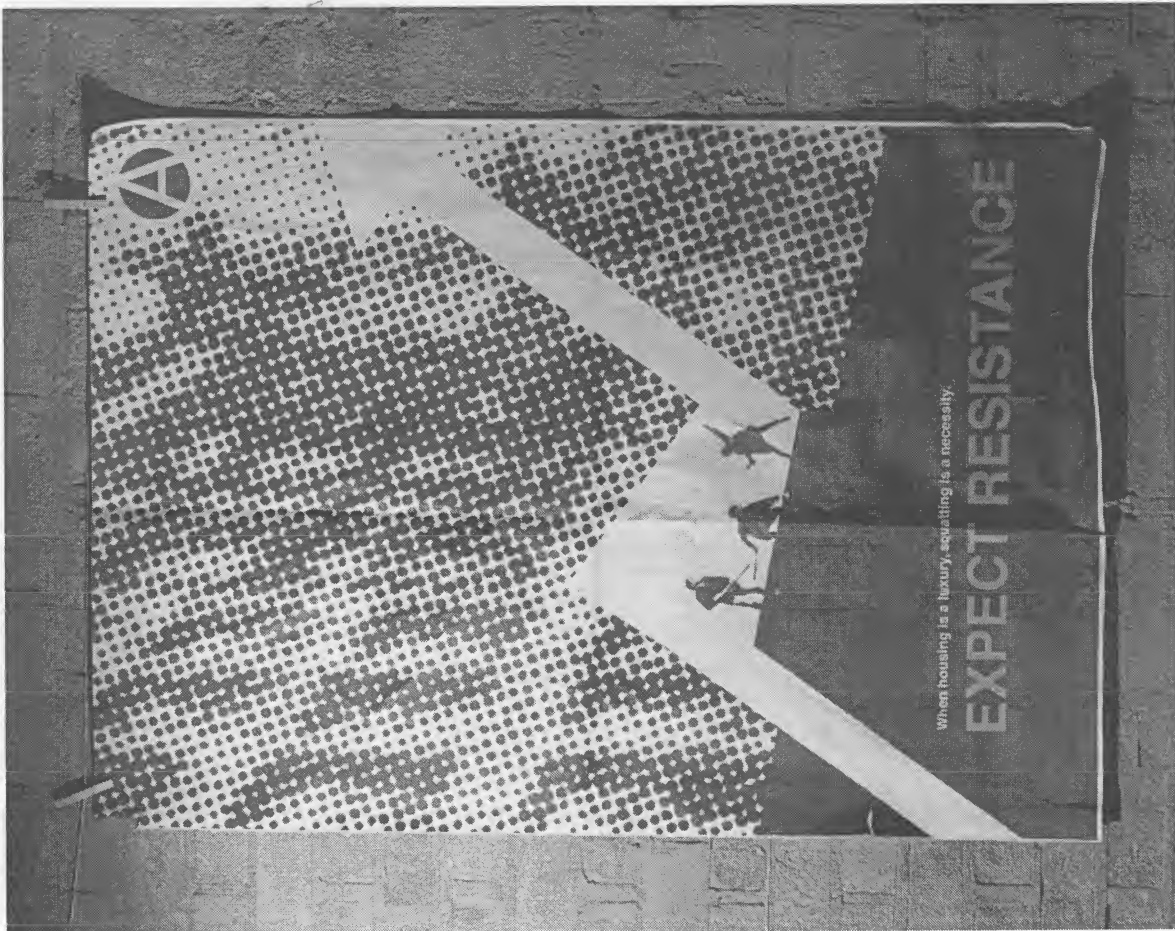
CULTURE. WORKSHOPS. RESISTANCE

For two weeks one of central London's lost and abandoned buildings was reclaimed and transformed into a radical centre for discussion, action, and education around the issue of Palestine. Palestine Place ran everything from film screenings, lectures, workshops and trainings to cultural, musical and culinary events.  
<http://palestineplace.wordpress.com>



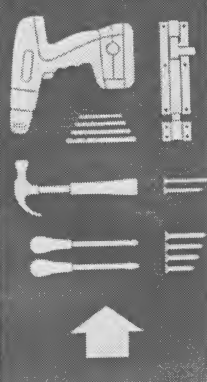
The National Front attacked squats at 220 Camden High Street, and the North London Gay Centre in Finsbury Park.





Jubilee City Farm was set up on some unused land in 1977, by a group of architects squatting nearby in Oswald's Place. It still exists, as Vauxhall City Farm.

# HOW TO CRACK A SPACE



## NEVER COMMIT CRIMINAL DAMAGE IN ORDER TO ENTER A BUILDING

Look For Insecure Doors / Windows Which Have Been Pried Open With A Crowbar, By Burglars Or Previously Entered.

1

**Before a Bill of Materials is Issued, It Must Be Filled.**  
Check for any damage to the building.

**Land Registry**

2

**Check for any damage to the building.**  
Check for any damage to the building.

## WHAT TYPES OF SECURITY PROTECT THE PREMISES?

Alarms / CCTV / Guards / Dog patrols / Parked cars / Helix-cables



4 ALARMS

**Check for any damage to the building.**  
Check for any damage to the building.

OUTSIDE ALARMS

**Check for any damage to the building.**  
Check for any damage to the building.

NOTES SENSORS ALARM

## LEGAL ADVICE

Check for any damage to the building.

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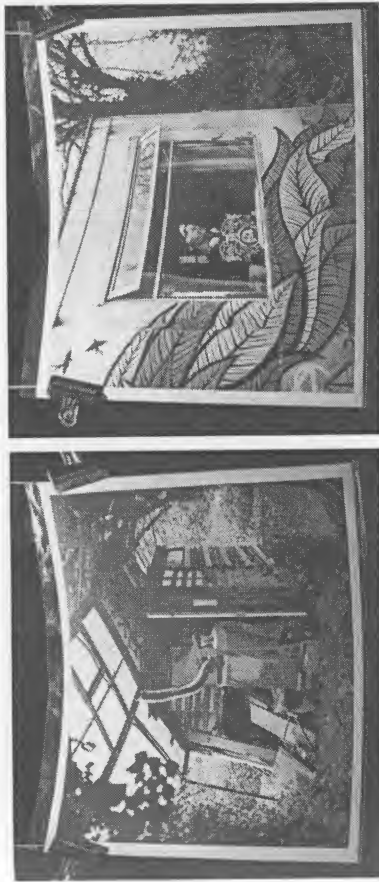
Check for any damage to the building.

Transition Heathrow is a grassroots action group working to build resilient Heathrow communities, squatted to resist and bring to light the environmental damage and misery future airport expansion at Heathrow. Grow Heathrow is under threat of eviction. Since 15 Aug 2014, bailiffs may arrive unannounced at any time. <http://www.transitionheathrow.com>  
Submitted by: Jonathan Goldberg

## Transition Heathrow



A new Criminal Law Act came into effect on 1st December 1977. It repealed the old Forcible Entry Act.



It also introduced five new criminal offences in relation to squatting – Sections 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 – and the concepts of “Displaced Residential Occupiers” and “Protected Intending Occupiers”.





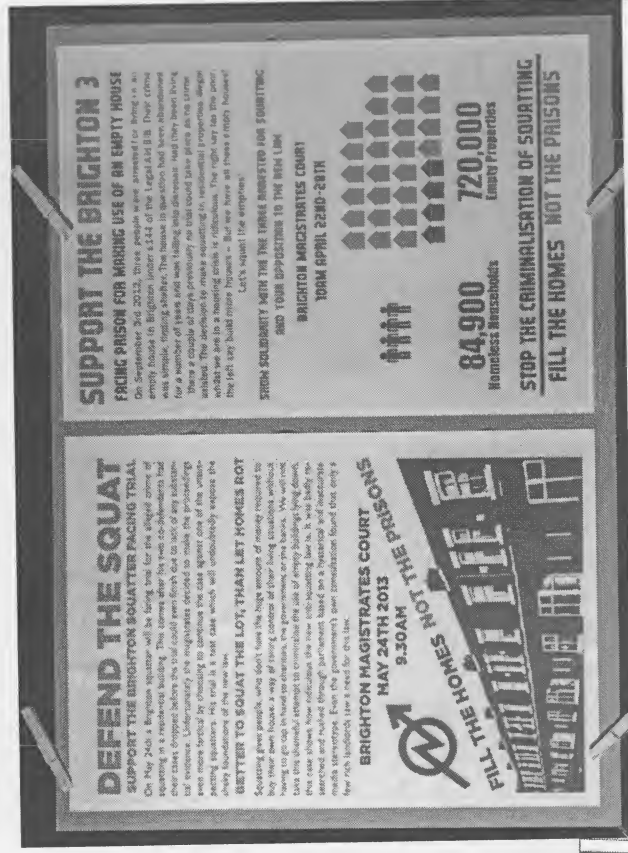




Squatting got harder as a result of the legal changes — to protect themselves against sudden eviction, squatters now had to occupy their places, not leave them empty.



Some people might also have been put off squatting by the publicity about the new criminal offences, so ASS launched its first 'Squatting is still legal' campaign in the summer of 1978.





**STATIC SHOCK**  
VOL 11 AND  
MODERN HATE VIBE  
PRESENT...

**BIG ALLAGES DIY BYOB**  
**TAKEOVER 3!**  
**SOCIAL CIRCLE**  
BENEFIT FOR  
ITALIAN MIGRANT SOLIDARITY  
HYPER SPEED 80s HARDCORE FROM  
BOSTON, MASS, THEY'VE GOT  
THE VERY BEST NOISE PUNK AFFLICTIONS.

**THE WANKYS**  
HEROES FROM LEICESTER  
(VIA KYUSHU ISLAND.. SONICALLY!)

**METHODIST CENTRE**  
QUEER CIVIL SERVANTS  
PLAYIN' DOUBLE DRUM  
HOMOEROTIC OI. REALLY

**SKIPLICKERS**  
TOTALLY RAGING  
YORKSHIRE D-BEAT  
DANGERHOUSE-APING

**THE SCEPTRES**  
POPERATIC PRIMAL SLOBS GO WILD

**NOWHERE FAST**  
BTO FAVOURITES BACK  
FROM LIVERPOOL WITH  
LITTLE BIKES  
& BIG SLAMDANCE

**FRI 30TH OCTOBER 7.30PM**  
SIX POUNDS PLEASE

**NEW VENUE ON!**  
**LOWER CLAPTON ROAD**  
**SEE BIGTAKEOVER.CO.UK**

A Housing Action convention, held in Sheffield in September 1978, attracted many squatters who wanted to link up on wider housing issues.



In 1979, squatters, tenants and trade unionists united to stage direct action – occupying a show home – at the Ideal Homes Exhibition at Earls Court.





Redbridge Squatters began a "Stop the Blitz" campaign at the end of 1978, occupying 50 empty houses spread over three streets.



They pointed out that three times as many homes had been demolished in 1971-77 as had been destroyed by bombs during the war in 1939-45.



During 1978-79, the Greater London Council announced a Squatting Amnesty. As a result, an estimated 12,000 squatters were granted authorised occupancies in GLC properties.

**Made Possible by Squatting** is a crew of friends, lovers, comrades, accomplices and SQUATTERS who dedicated their time and sanity to making this project happen.

We would like to thank Waitrose bins, Shalams curry house, all the squatters and friends that showed up when the police were on our doorstep, cheap imported tobacco, anyone who lent tools, equipment, time or love and helped make this happen, all those who contributed artwork for the exhibition and ASS, SLN, SQUASH and Eviction Resistance.

The latter organisations are volunteer run and rely on donations. If you can help them out, do so.

Advisory Service for Squatters- [www.squatter.org.uk](http://www.squatter.org.uk)

Squatters Legal Network- <https://network23.org/squatterslegalnetwork/>

SQUASH- [www.squashcampus.org](http://www.squashcampus.org)

Eviction Resistance- [www.evictionresistance.squat.net](http://www.evictionresistance.squat.net)

LOVE/RAGE/SOLIDARITY/ACAB

See you at the Barricades x



After Made Possible, we created a website for the timeline info. So far, it only covers 1906 – 1946, but we're hoping to add more dates and more detail very soon. If you have squatting stories to share, old photos or footage, links to other websites etc, please get in touch. <http://squattingtimeline.wordpress.com/>



made possible by [squatting.co.uk](http://squatting.co.uk)